

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 43-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 7, 11, 43, and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Montfort et al.; Claims 1-7, 9, 11, and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al.; and Claims 8, 10, 12, 44, and 46 have been rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al. and further in view of Kobayashi et al. Claims 1-12 and 43-46 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 43-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is to be noted that such claims have now been amended for closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1, 7, 11, 43, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Montfort et al., it is to be noted that each of independent Claims 1 and 10-12 have now been amended to claim that the at least one vibration application part and blade member are disposed on a first and second side, respectively, of the vibration member at a free end thereof which is engageable with the image carrier and that the at least one vibration part and blade member are oriented parallel to one another, as illustrated, for example, in Figures 9 and 10 which are included within the Elected Embodiment No. 1. These features help provide the advantages discussed at page 43, line 3 through page 44, line 7 and thus permit a plurality of plate-like piezoelectric elements to be provided which result in uniformity of vibration. To the contrary, while Montfort et al. includes a blade member 91 and vibration member 84 as interpreted by the Examiner, such are not each positioned at a free end which is engageable with the image carrier since the vibration member 84 is positioned on a side of the blade member opposite the carrier and, moreover, the vibration

member 84 and blade 91 are not oriented parallel to one another and disposed on a first and second side, respectively, of the vibration member, as presently claimed. As can also be appreciated, the blade member of Monfart et al is oriented at one end of the vibration member and is thus positioned at a location which clearly differs from that claimed as discussed above. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of Claims 1, 7, 11, 43, and 45, along with independent Claims 1 and 10-12 clearly patentably define over Montfort et al.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1-7, 9, 11, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al., it is submitted that Yoshikawa does not rectify the deficiencies noted above with regard to Montfort et al., particularly insofar as the blade 3 of Yoshikawa et al. does not have a vibration application part and a blade member disposed on a first side and second side of a vibration member at a free end which is engageable with the image carrier and such vibration application part and blade member are not oriented parallel to one another as presently claimed. Rather, the blade 3 is positioned in proximity with the image carrier and the vibration part is positioned at a location distanced from photosensitive drum 1. As can thus be appreciated, the structure shown in Yoshikawa et al. has no similarities to the structure claimed or as shown in Figure 10 of the present application. It is therefore submitted that each of independent Claims 1 and 10-12, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, clearly patentably define over the above-noted references as well as the remaining references of record.

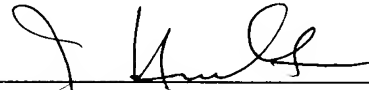
Lastly considering then the rejection of Claims 8, 10, 12, 44, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al. and Kobayashi et al., it is respectfully submitted that Kobayashi et al. fails to rectify the deficiencies noted hereinabove regarding Yoshikawa et al. and Montfort et al. In this regard, it is noted that Kobayashi et al. is only cited for the concept of polymerized toner formed by polymerization. It is therefore submitted that such does not teach the above-noted structure as now claimed in

each of independent Claims 1 and 10-12. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 1 and 10-12 as well as dependent Claims 8, 44, and 46 patentably define over the prior art noted above as well as the remaining references of record.

In view of the foregoing comments early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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